

7/7/09

To: The California MLPA Initiative Committee,

My name is Scott Honaker owner of the FV Critters. I have been fishing the Point Dume area for lobster for 30 years. I have been fishing the Southern California area for almost 50 years. I am one of the top producers for lobster and sheephead in Southern California.

I own a house and live in the South Torrance area. I have been happily married for over 20 years, I have a son 18 and a daughter 15. I have made a good living commercial fishing in this area. Fishing is my only means of supporting my family. Maybe even more important, **Fishing is my life.**

With the MLPA closures coming to Southern California, the area I fish lobster, crab and sheephead is Malibu Point to Point Magu. It looks like it is going to get hit extremely hard.

There are 3 main producing areas, with a whole lot of sand areas in-between
In the proposed closures that I have seen, there is only 2 I can still **make a living with, they are Lapis 2 proposal and Revised external A proposal.**
All of the other proposals want to take 2 of the 3 producing areas.

I find this grossly unfair, since I will lose everything I have worked for my entire life.

I feel the Malibu/Point Magu area is being targeted more by the Enviros because of political reasons, more than saving any reef habitat or lobster that live on them.

I have fished lobster, crab and sheephead in this area since the late 70's. Just about all fisheries go in cycles. I just find it odd that the Enviros want to close these areas at the same time that I have seen the biggest increase of lobster, crab and sheephead in the last 30 years.

The Malibu/Point Magu area is in the best condition that I have ever seen.
There is more kelp than I have ever seen which means the reefs are healthy and thriving.

The last 2 years I have caught the most lobsters per trap than ever before. I have seen the most short lobsters since the 70's. Crab fishing is incredible. I can catch a hundred crab per trap for a couple night soak, 2 or 3 times of what I used to catch in the 80's.
This year I have seen the most sheephead since the early 90's, when we started fishing live fish.

When I hear a 25 -30 year old old Enviro say it's all about 'saving the reef habitat from over fishing', I say you have not been out on the ocean in a while.
I spend 200 days on the ocean a year and believe me, the reefs are doing just fine.

Round 2 Proposals

Lapis 1 Proposal: I would lose 50% of my income because of the large closure at Point Dume.

Lapis 2 Proposal: I would lose 15% of my income, because of the Big Sycamore closure.

Opal 1 Proposal: I would lose 40% of my income because of the large Pointe Dume closure.

Topaz Proposal: I would lose 50% of my income because of the Point Dume and Deer Creek closure.

Revised External A Proposal: I would lose 15% of my income because of the Big Sycamore and Deer Creek closure.

As you can see, some of these proposals would put me out of business.

Lapis 2 and Revised External A, are 2 proposals I would take a hit on, but I would still be able to make a living.

Since this is my life and livelihood, I have the most to lose out of most of the stakeholders. If I lose my livelihood, it drastically affects my wife, my kids, my deckhands, my 3 different buyers, his workers and the restaurants he sells to. It will also affect the fishing supplies that I spend \$30,000 a year on. It will also affect the local fish markets, and marinas,

Before it was trendy to be Enviro, we as fisherman are the true environmentalists. We care about the ocean, because we have to out of necessity.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Scott Honaker

